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STIRRED BY CRIME FACTS, CITIZENS CALL FOR ACTION

Massmeeting Passes Resolutions and Committee Is Named

Stirred by a calm but stinging recital of facts concerning crimes against young women and girls in this city, a mass meeting of citizens that filled the Bijou theater last night adopted resolutions calling for the appointment of a committee of representative men and women to "devise ways and means whereby our laws shall be more adequately enforced, and to arouse within this community a sense of its duty and responsibility for the protection of our women and girls."

The committee was immediately named by Bishop H. B. Restarick, who presided, and will begin work at once.

Last night's meeting was a notable one in Honolulu's history. The call for the mass meeting by the Inter-Island Federation had announced that "a spade would be called a spade," and such was the case. The speakers, Bishop Restarick, Miss Sadie C. Sterritt, principal of the Girls' Industrial School; Rev. P. W. Rider, Perley L. Horne, principal of Kamehameha Schools; Juvenile Judge W. L. Whitney, J. R. Galt, principal of Palama Settlement Association and W. A. Bowen, who presented the resolutions calling for the committee. All of these speakers calmly, yet with earnest indignation, recited facts and figures concerning the prevalence in this city of crime against girls, and declared that "it has got to stop."

Audience Means Business

The audience composed of men and women of all classes and walks in life, sat quiet for the most part, but listened attentively. The speakers talked with the utmost quietness and yet there were times when the 1,500 men and women murmured angrily as some particularly loathsome fact was related, or, as in one instance, cried "Shame!" when a speaker referred to "the fact that many men charged with unspeakable crimes have gone unpunished."

With the singing of hymns and with prayers by ministers of Honolulu a deeply religious tone was given to the mass meeting, but the chairman announced early in the evening that applause would be in order, and frequently the speakers were interrupted by bursts of handclapping which manifested their entire sympathy with the cause for which the meeting was called.

The meeting was opened at 7:45 o'clock with prayer by Dr. Doremus Scudder, after which Bishop Restarick spoke a few words of introduction. A free-will offering was taken up by the ushers, R. H. Trent explaining that voluntary subscriptions were meeting all the expenses of these mass meetings and he hoped would continue to do so. The Rev. D. C. Peters of the Christian Church, returned thanks for the offering. Bishop Restarick's introductory remarks were short and to the point, as those of all the speakers. He recited the purpose for which the meeting had been called, and declared that Honolulu must face this and similar problems, such as the social evil, frankly and squarely and must recognize that its young needs teaching so that boys and girls may not be easily led astray. He told of cases that had come under his notice where young girls had been led astray largely through their own ignorance. He also praised the action of the British House of Commons in voting to restore the whipping-post for punishing white slaves.

Miss Sterritt read a short paper in which she pointed out special instances where some of the terrible crimes against girls in Hawaii have gone unpunished. She scored the police for not giving their best efforts to aid her in her work to bring the men in the cases to justice, declaring that in one instance the police had allowed a man to get away on a steamer when she had had a warrant sworn out for his arrest and when he went away making no effort to hide himself as the steamer left. She asked why the curfew law is not enforced. She brought to public attention the open and flagrant flaunting of vice in certain portions of the business districts of Honolulu and declared that it is up to the officials of this city to put into office men who will stop these conditions.

Mr. Horne and Mr. Rider gave stirring speeches dwelling on the necessity for taking action and the need of finding just where the trouble lies and remedying the faults in the present government, if it lies in the laws or their method of enforcement.

That the prevalence of this kind of vice in Honolulu is out of all proportion to its population was shown by Mr. Galt, who read statistics dealing with vice conditions here and in Europe. He showed the cases of rape, carnal abuse, abduction, adultery, etc. average about twenty-four times the number in Honolulu as in English cities of fifty thousand population. Mr. Galt's figures were received with utmost attention and it was here that he was twice interrupted with cries of "Shame!"

Juvenile Judge W. L. Whitney spoke along practical lines of remedying conditions. He declared that it is up to the public to see that conditions are bettered; that the judges, prosecuting officers, juries and police officers will do no more and no less than they are required to do by the force of public opinion. Declaring that just censure and deserved praise will do much in stiffening the arm of the law, he advised that when the sentences of judges are not agreed with, the citizens should go frankly to the judges and ask why the sentences were imposed as they were.

Pays Tribute to Press

He paid a tribute to the efficiency of the police force and their willingness to help, as had Mr. Rider previously, declaring that the police force will do just what the public wants it to do. He declared further that one of the greatest agencies for good in cleaning up the city is the public press, and in passing he said that Honolulu should be proud of her newspapers, which are conspicuous forces for civic righteousness and cannot be influenced by corrupt considerations.

Resolutions

W. A. Bowen presented the resolutions after a strong speech urging that the community awake to the need of action. The resolutions were as follows:

"Whereas, Crimes of violence against women and girls have been for some time past on an alarming increase in this community, and

"Whereas, The conditions in this regard are now intolerable and a disgrace to our Christian civilization, and

"Whereas, The public at large have heretofore shown naught but indifference to the enormity of the evil existing in our midst, and

"Whereas, It is charged that our elective officers, judges and trial jurors, have been and are remiss in their duties in relation to the detection, arrest, prosecution, and conviction of persons charged with these offenses,

"Now and Therefore, Be it Resolved, That a committee of citizens be appointed at this meeting to co-operate with our officers of the law, and others, to devise means whereby our laws shall be more adequately enforced, and to arouse within this community a sense of its duty and responsibility for the protection of our women and girls."

Bishop Restarick thereupon named the following committee under the terms of the resolution:

A. Lewis, Jr., A. Lindsay, Jr., A. Galtley, L. Tenney Peck, Dr. W. C. Hobdy, F. C. Atherton, W. E. Brown, R. O. Matheson, Riley H. Allen, J. P. Cooke, Mrs. J. R. Galt and Miss Pope. Those who spoke and were given seats on the platform by invitation of the Inter-Church Federation were as follows: Bishop Restarick, Miss Sterritt, Perley Horne, P. W. Rider, John R. Galt, W. L. Whitney, W. A. Bowen, Dr. Doremus Scudder, Rev. John W. Wadman, Rev. A. A. Ebersole, Rev. Robt. E. Smith, Rev. D. C. Peters, Rev. P. T. Fukao, Rev. Kong Yin Tse, Canon Ault, Governor Frear, Mrs. Frear, James Bath, Col. B. B. Cox, Salvation Army, Lucy Peabody, Kamehameha Society, Henry Smith, E. Stiles, Miss Lorna Iauka, Miss Agnes Maynard, Miss Pope, Kamehameha School for Girls, Miss A. Marsh, St. Andrew's Priory, James Wakefield, A. D. Castro, M. M. Scott, principal High School, Edgar Wood, principal Normal School, Paul Super, Y. M. C. A., R. H. Trent, R. O. Matheson and R. H. Allen.

BOY SCOUTS HOLD INTEREST OF A BIG WAILUKU CROWD

[Special Star-Bulletin Correspondence]

WAILUKU, Maui, Nov. 28.—Scout Commissioner James A. Wilder, with Charles Norton, accompanied by thirteen Boy Scouts of Honolulu, came from Lahaina to Wailuku this morning, arriving here about half past nine. The big lao stables truck brought the party with its equipment over from Olowalu, where they camped last night in the sugar house of the Olowalu Mill. In a few minutes their camp was pitched in front of the Wailuku court house, and the boys were at home in the town. They cooked their own dinner in real camp style. This cost each Scout the big sum of eight cents. This afternoon three automobiles conveyed the whole party to the Wailuku beach house of the Wailuku Sugar company. Here all had a delightful swim, returning to Wailuku in time for the exhibition at 4 o'clock. Quite a crowd of townspeople gathered before Commissioner Wilder blew his whistle.

The lawn had a large number of boys who sat as near the Scouts from Honolulu as they could. For an hour the Scouts went through various scout drills in which all the spectators were immensely interested. The audience was the largest the Scouts have ever had, and they did good work in their drills, so that the Maui people were greatly pleased with the idea. One boy asked if he might be a Scout, and this recruit will doubtless mean that others will follow. By half past five o'clock all the Scouts were at Puunene clubhouse. They laid their blankets on the floor of the veranda, where they are to camp for the night. Tomorrow, probably in the afternoon, they give an exhibition in the Puunene grounds. It is expected that now their appearance on Maui has been somewhat advertised that there will be a good turn-out tomorrow. Surely, Commander Wilder is just the man on the islands to push the Scout Movement hard and successfully.

SCOUTS HOME AGAIN

The contingent of Boy Scouts who have been touring the island of Maui returned Sunday morning on the Minkahala. The trip was a decided success if genuine enthusiasm on the part of the different audiences mean anything. Scout Commissioner Wilder is preparing a complete report of the entire trip which will be published some day this week in the Star-Bulletin.

Following is a list of the boys who won the appreciation and respect of the Maui people by their excellent behavior and their good work: David Bent, patrol leader; Frank Sylva, patrol leader; Abraham Amoy, John Frank, Adolph Siebert, James Siebert, Henry Thompson, John Lane, Charles Shaw, Victor Boyd, Robert Boyd, Nelson Robinson.

ATLANTIC CITY CANOPIED BOARD WALK

A plan to cover forty feet of the width of the Boardwalk with a glass and steel frame canopy, so that visitors need not be confined to their hotels in wet weather, was proposed at a meeting of the Atlantic City Business League.

Albert T. Bell suggested that the business men first widen the Boardwalk from sixty feet through the hotel and amusement district, and then cover forty feet of the structure on the inner side, so that travel need never be interrupted by rain or snow. He suggested that the steel and glass canopy be erected on a line with the second-story building level and have curtains to cut off the glare of the sun in mid-summer. "Adopt something of this kind," said he, "and Boardwalk business, which is now suspended entirely every time it rains, would not be dependent upon the vagaries of the weather."

The league discussed the proposals informally, but took no action. The increased revenue, it was contended, would soon pay the entire cost of the transformation of the promenade.—Pittsburg Dispatch.

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